

appears to be practically confined to the United States. Russia, according to Consul Troup, will have nothing to do with the "Japan Congous," and all Europe takes in a year only some 300,000 pounds. On the other hand, Canada buys annually upward of 8,000,000, and the United States nearly 19,000,000 pounds.

Messrs. Edward Adams & Co., of London, Ont., have disposed of the stock and good-will of their wine and liquor branch to Messrs. J. S. Hamilton & Co., Brantford. The first named firm will in future confine itself exclusively to the wholesale grocery trade.

A Winnipeg lady of no small avoirdupois has made a scale-testing expedition, which proved somewhat interesting. Starting down Portage avenue, she first stood on the platform of a Howe scale, tilting the beam at 200½ lbs.; a Burrows' scale gave 203. Another of the same make in an adjoining store made her weight two pounds less, although on the previous day it registered only 199 lbs. At other mercantile establishments the following differences were noted: Burrows' scale, 201 lbs.; Burrows' scale, 202½ lbs.; Fairbanks' scale, 202 lbs.; Osborne scale, 201½ lbs.; Gurney scale, 200 lbs.; Gurney scale, 202 lbs.; Gurney scale, 202 lbs. The lady, says the *Free Press*, is yet in a quandary as to her exact weight.

The retail wine and spirit dealers of Hamilton have formed an association, with James Osborne as president; H. W. Sewell, vice-president; and Adam Ballantine, secy.-treas. The members were unable to secure a reduction in price from the brewers, and the rates will remain at \$1.40 per dozen for quarts of ale and porter; pints, 90c.; lager, quarts, \$1.40; pints, 70c.

Mr. Wm. P. Pierce, an old-time Boston merchant, who died recently, used to be fond of uttering impressive maxims to his young friends. One Sunday, thirty years ago, at Swampscott, he accosted two young aspirants as they were journeying churchward, and, holding aloft his cane as a signal for them to stop, thus addressed them: "Young men, I have one thing to say to you here and now. Never forget it! If your fathers, on dying, leave you a fortune, spend it judiciously!"—*Boston Commercial Bulletin*.

A southern grocer, says the *Chicago Times*, being greatly annoyed by flies, distributed twenty-one sheets of sticky fly-paper about his store. In the evening he gathered them up, and noticing how much heavier they were, concluded to weigh them. He accordingly placed the twenty-one sheets with their loads of dead flies upon the scales. They tipped the beam at exactly seven pounds. Then he placed twenty-one fresh sheets on the scales and found that they weighed but four pounds and four ounces. Thus the flies were shown to weigh two pounds and twelve ounces. He next commenced to figure and found there were twenty flies to each square inch of the fly-paper; each sheet had 336 square inches and 6,720 flies, the twenty-one sheets containing in all 141,120 flies. Thus it is plain that one can easily ascertain the exact weight of a single fly, for if 141,120 flies weigh two pounds and twelve ounces, it is easy to calculate what one would weigh.

—In reply to a question as to the proposed scheme of building a new road from New York to Lake Ontario, Mr. H. W. Webb, third vice-president of the N. Y. Central, said to a *Times* reporter that his road had lines enough to Albany and to Lake Ontario, and would certainly not take hold of it.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

A life of Sir John Macdonald which should attempt to give an idea of the man without illustrations by way of anecdote and quotations, while it might be instructive, would to many prove but dry reading. It might relate the share he took in the making the history of Canada; it might convey an idea of his statesmanship, or, as in the case of Mr. Collins' book, depict administrations with which he was connected, the state of colonial affairs at different periods of his career; but the man and his methods would be inadequately portrayed without samples of his humor, his quickness of repartee, his *bonhomie*, his readiness with a story or a quotation. This Mr. Biggar seems to have recognized, for his book,* aptly named the *Anecdotal History of the deceased statesman*, is largely made up of such interesting materials. For three years, the author tells us, he has been gathering up anecdotes of Sir John and observations on him by his friends. "I have endeavored," he says, "more to sketch the lighter features of his public life, along with his personal peculiarities, than to give that complete view of his life-work for which the time is not yet ripe."

The lad Macdonald was early marked for future distinction, it appears, for we find one of his early schoolmasters, a Scotchman in Kingston, remarking that "Johnnie Macdonald has a heid on him like a mon"; while his mother, a woman of marked character, as appears from the excellent portrait given of her in this book, early said of the eager, fun-loving, clever boy: "Mark my words, John will make more than the ordinary man." Mr. Biggar denies the authenticity of Sir John's speech in defence of the misguided Pole, Von Shoultz, which has been so often mentioned as the one which helped to make the young lawyer famous, referring to it as "a strange delusion in biography." Sir John himself, it seems, replying to the author on this point, wrote not long before his death: "I never delivered a speech in favor of Von Shoultz in 1838, or at any other time." But a capital illustration of his tact as an advocate is given on page 54, the occasion being a libel suit brought by Kenneth MacKenzie against Dr. Stewart of the *Argus*. A pleasing feature of the book is the number of instances it affords of clever passages at arms, in Parliament principally, where others of our distinguished men crossed swords with Sir John in the field of humorous or biting retort. Rymal, Blake, Charlton, Mackenzie, are among them, and a formidable foe was the last-named, either in argument or retort.

We shall give at another time a number of the anecdotes told of Sir John, but it is proper to say that the book is not a record of pleasantries merely. Chapter 22, containing "Sir John's serious sayings," is as interesting to a thoughtful person as any in the book. It is not easy to make extracts from it, but a sentence or two will show its character:

"The Government are merely trustees for the public."

"I am satisfied that the best citizens are missionaries."

"Parliament is a grand inquest which has the right to enquire into anything and everything."

"Are we not all equal in this country? Have we not all the same rights? And if we get the right man in the right place it does not matter what his race, ancestry or religion may be."

*Anecdotal Life of Sir John Macdonald, By E. B. Biggar. Paper, 50 cents; cloth, 1.25. Montreal. Printed by John Lovell & Son, 1891.

(APPENDIX).—"We only need to mutually understand these questions (fisheries, &c.), for both only seek what is their own; and God knows that next to the prosperity of Canada and Great Britain we seek that of the United States, for our interests are one. We are of the same family, and each should say of the other, as the Psalmist puts it: 'Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.'"

The first part of what shows promise of being a valuable work of reference has just been issued by MacMillan, of London. It is a *Dictionary of Political Economy*,* the purpose of which is to give a statement of the position of this subject at the present time, together with such references to history, law, and commerce as may be useful both in economic and general reading. Legal and business terms are explained, and references to the important legal decisions given. Short biographies of economic writers, with summaries of their chief contributions, are also included. It is intended to assist alike the student and the man of business. As there is said to be no publication in English exactly corresponding to the scope of the dictionary, it will be seen that the Macmillans are supplying a deficiency in the library of reference books. We notice that in Part I., the editor, Mr. R. H. Inglis Palgrave, F.R.S., has availed himself of the sound and extensive knowledge of Mr. B. E. Walker, general manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, whose article on the History of Currency and Banking in Canada was expressly prepared for this work. The dictionary will be issued in parts, about fourteen of which, 128 pages each, will complete the series.

MONTREAL CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings and Balances for week ending 6th August, 1891, were as under:

	Clearings.	Balances.
July 31.....	\$1,432,753	\$221,525
Aug. 1.....	1,686,383	300,010
" 3.....	1,548,752	274,695
" 4.....	1,747,702	274,517
" 5.....	1,539,906	196,347
" 6.....	1,572,854	278,929
Total	\$9,528,350	\$1,546,023

Cor. week 1890	\$9,548,530	\$933,165
Cor. week 1889	9,317,146	1,441,277

TORONTO CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings and Balances of this clearing-house (of which the Bank of Toronto is not a member) for the week ended Aug. 6th, 1891, are as under:—

	Clearings.	Balances.
July 31.....	\$997,080	\$211,920
Aug. 1.....	898,988	118,340
" 3.....	739,751	64,473
" 4.....	908,676	148,211
" 5.....	1,112,605	143,006
" 6.....	1,084,278	164,301
Total	\$5,741,379	\$850,251

—A despatch from Washington says that the Treasury Department is informed that large quantities of grain from the Province of Manitoba were shipped via Duluth, Minn. under transit entries made for the purpose of facilitating the re-entry of the grain into Canadian territory. It is said that, at the time of shipment from Manitoba, the destination of the grain is un-

*Dictionary of Political Economy, edited by R. H. Inglis Palgrave, F.R.S. First part: Abatement—Bede. Price 3s. 6d., net. Macmillan & Co., London and New York.